



# BROOKLYN TODAY

A Joint Publication of the City of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn School District

VOLUME FIVE, ISSUE SEVENTEEN

SECOND QUARTER 2004

## FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR KEN PATTON



Warm weather has arrived and with it the start of new projects and construction to improve our roadways. Please be advised of all roadways that will be under construction this spring and summer.

I welcome everyone to join us on Memorial Day, May 31 as we pay tribute to those who have and are currently making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The parade will begin at 11:00 AM, at Brooklyn High School, 9200 Biddulph Road with ceremonies at Brooklyn City Hall immediately following at approximately 11:45 AM. This is truly a special day for our country. Please remember to keep all our service people in your thoughts.

The City of Brooklyn has been selected to receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Award for excellence in financial reporting for the 14th year in a row for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. We have also received our 2nd annual award for the Popular Annual Financial Report, which will be sent in the mail to every household and business.

The City of Brooklyn has once again been recognized as Tree City USA. We are honored to have received this award for the 20th consecutive year in a row by the National Arbor Day Foundation. We will celebrate this day on April 30th with students from Brookridge, St. Thomas More and Heritage Christian schools.

I am also delighted to announce that the City of Brooklyn has been named a Business Friendly Community by the Greater Cleveland Community Partnership. I was honored to have Mr. William McClung of the Greater Cleveland Partnership present this award at a recent City Council meeting. Brooklyn truly is a community that embraces its local business and appreciates all the support that they give to our city.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Home Days celebration which will be taking place on August 13, 14 and 15. There will be live music, delicious food, amusement rides, and exciting games for the entire family. Please mark these dates on your calendar! A good time is always had by all! I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

## 2004 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL STATUS

The city ended the year much as it did last year, another balanced budget with positive balances in all departments and all funds. Directors used the resources allotted to them effectively and stayed under budget. The General Fund has a balance of over \$2.8 million. The Capital Improvement Fund has a balance of over \$1.4 million. We will be able to maintain a program that keeps services in place while making necessary improvements to our infrastructure.

The city has now presented and passed the permanent budget for 2004. We anticipated a budget that would not be balanced and that is currently the expectation. There are several reasons for this. Brooklyn will have 27 pay days this year (This happens about once every 11 years). That means that personnel costs will increase by over \$475,000 even after approximately \$100,000 in reductions in part time and permanent staff. Health care costs went up by 15% increasing expenditures by a projected \$148,000. The pension system is changing from quarterly to monthly payments meaning the city must make 14 payments this year instead of paying for 12 months. This will likely increase costs by \$140,000. Workers Compensation payments will increase by \$70,000. We anticipate a \$50,000 increase in insurance. These items alone account for \$900,000 of an expected \$1 million increase in expenses in the General Fund. Revenues will not keep pace with those increases. This situation was expected and planned for. That is the reason a \$2.8 million fund balance was built up. We ensured the city was in position to handle the expected shortfall. We will use up about \$900,000 of that balance and still have \$1.9 million to carry forward to 2005 if all goes according to plan.

At the outset of our budget review we indicated we would review operations and pare expenditures wherever possible. Part time hours have been reduced. Operating hours at the Recreation Center have been changed. Costs for all recreation programs have been reviewed. Those same reviews will continue during the year in other programs. One full time administrative position was eliminated through consolidation of duties. This early action will allow services to be maintained in 2004 and 2005.

Brooklyn's infrastructure will continue to be maintained. A replacement refuse packer is planned and a new street sweeper. The final phase of the resurfacing of Ridge Road will be done, the signals on Memphis Avenue will be upgraded and \$450,000 of work will be done to improve local streets. About \$1.9 million in equipment and improvements is planned.



## FIRE SAFETY

### .....FROM CHIEF PAUL DUCHOSLAV, DIVISION OF FIRE

The number of house fires caused by candles in the City of Brooklyn alone has increased since the late 1990's. Coincidentally, the popularity of candles has also increased during the same time period. I feel that it is worth devoting this article to the following excerpts taken from the most recent edition of the National Fire Protection Association Journal.

- The National Candle Association reports that candles are used in 7 out of 10 households in the U.S.
- According to the NFPA's 2003 report, home candle fires jumped 20% from 1998 to 1999, hitting a 20 year high of 15,040 fires, 102 civilian deaths, 1,473 civilian injuries, and an estimated \$278 million in property damage.
- 38% of all home candle fires occurred when candles were left unattended.

Too often people seem to forget that a candle is an open flame that may not burn evenly, particularly in a draft, and could easily ignite nearby combustibles. Please use caution and follow these safety tips when using candles in your home:

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Keep any material that could ignite a minimum of one (1) foot away from the open flame.
- Always place candles on stable furniture in sturdy holders that won't tip over.
- Do not allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Do not use candles anywhere children or pets can knock them over.
- Keep candles, matches, and lighters up high, out of the reach of small children.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle.
- During a power outage use flashlights instead of candles.

Whether you use candles or not, always make sure you have working smoke detectors in your home.



## POLICE NEWS

### ... From the Desk of Chief Jack Murphy

Hopefully the long winter has passed and people will be getting out of their houses and reacquainting with the neighbors.

We are constantly adjusting traffic signals and posting new signs to improve the flow of traffic. All complaints about traffic situations should be directed to the Police Department and we will address the situation.

The D.A.R.E. Officers are in the process of completing the 2003-2004 Drug Awareness Program for Brookridge School, St. Thomas More School and the Brooklyn Junior High.

Although the public should already be aware, the new Gun Law goes into effect April 8, 2004. People who have taken all the classes required and have met all the prerequisites will be permitted to carry concealed weapons after securing a license from their local Sheriff. The Brooklyn Police Department is still distributing gun locks free of charge for Brooklyn residents.

The best deal in town is the quality safety helmets for bike riders and skateboard users at a cost of only seven dollars (\$7.00). These \$30 value helmets are available to you at such a low cost due to a safety program sponsored by University Hospital in cooperation with the Police Department.

In order to continue to serve the Brooklyn Community as best we can, we need your help to get involved and report any crime or suspicious activity. We can be contacted at (216) 749-1234 and for emergency situations call 911.

### PLACING RUBBISH ON TREE LAWN HOURS of the Codified Ordinance # 521.16

No individual shall place or deposit rubbish/garbage for collection by the Service Department on their front lawns until after sunset the evening prior to the day of regular collection and/or the day of an arranged special trash collection.

No individual shall allow the trash receptacles previously placed on their front lawns more than 24 hours after rubbish has been collected.

Whoever violates either section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REQUIRED HOME MAINTENANCE

For information regarding these programs please contact the CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT for home improvement or emergency home repair at 216-443-7260. Hearing impaired applicants may call their TDD line at 216-443-8080.

For further information regarding EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE GRANTS contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203. The Treasurers Office at 216-443-7400 can provide you with details for the Cuyahoga County Treasurers "Help" (HOUSING ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM).

### MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Building Department has instituted a more extensive property maintenance inspection program for 2004, starting with commercial districts in March. If you are aware of properties in need of maintenance, contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203 or City of Brooklyn website: [www.brooklynohio.gov](http://www.brooklynohio.gov).

## SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

### COFFEE WITH MAYOR PATTON

AT THE BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER

DATE: MAY 24, 2004

TIME: 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

**\*\*\*Grass cutting starts May 3, 2004 and runs for 22 weeks ending October 1, 2004.**

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Brooklyn Community Center

May 24, 2004

Time: 12:00-6:00 PM

### LIVING WILL AND POWER OF ATTORNEY CLINICS

Presented by Lutheran Hospital

This is your opportunity to learn the current law regarding these documents, which guide end-life decisions. Participants will have the option of completing these forms and having them notarized. Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney documents, forms and notary will be provided. This evening program is open to the community and takes place on Wednesday, June 2 from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM at the Brooklyn Community Senior Center at 7727 Memphis Avenue. To make reservations call 216-363-2001.

### CERAMIC CLASSES

Brooklyn Community Senior Center

6:30-9:00 PM

Cost per class is \$2.00 plus the cost of your green ware (molds to be painted).

### BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tickets are available for the pastel-hued butterfly applique quilt to be raffled off at the end of May. They can be picked up at the museum on Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM from members. Starting in April, we will again be open on the third Sunday of each month from 2-5:00 PM.

Historical Fact: Did you know that Brooklyn has only had five mayors since becoming a village in 1927? The first was Henry Suroski, followed by Fred Seabor upon Mr. Suroski's death in 1934; the third was Orwell Kresge in 1940; John M. Coyne in 1948 and Kenneth Patton in the year 2000.

## RECYCLE NEWS

The City of Brooklyn has expanded its list of recyclable materials it can pick up on the curb. Along with your aluminum, steel, plastic, glass and newspaper, you can now dispose of magazines, office paper, junk mail, computer paper, glossy paper, phone books, cereal boxes and pop/beer cartons. Cardboard that does not exceed the dimensions of 6 inches by 6 inches can be placed in your bin. Make sure that all paper and cardboard is put in a plastic or brown paper bag and placed in your recycle bin.

## RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

### SUMMER YOUTH BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Last day to register is May 1st from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

### SUMMER SUPER SIGN UP

Saturday, May 15th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and on Sunday, May 16th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Register for any summer program the Recreation Department offers. A valid resident I.D. is required at time of registration.

### LEARN TO SWIM REGISTRATION

Residents may sign up on Saturday, May 15th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Both residents and non-residents can sign up on Sunday, May 16th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Please join us in honoring the men and women who have given their lives for our country. The parade begins at 11:00 AM from the Brooklyn High School located at 9200 Biddulph. Parade participants are asked to park behind the High School. Commemorative services will be held at the City of Brooklyn Memorial Park upon the parade's arrival. If you would like to participate in the parade, call 216-351-5334.

### MEMORIAL DAY HOURS

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM: Adult/Senior Lap Swim

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM: Open Swim

### FAMILY FUN SERIES

Brooklyn Memorial Park Grande Pavilion

June 8th	7:00 PM	Jocko Variety Show
July 6th	7:00 PM	Jungle Terry Exotic Animal Show
August 3rd	7:00 PM	Mr. Hat Box

### SUMMER SERENADE SERIES

Brooklyn Memorial Park Grande Pavilion

June 11th	7:00-9:00 PM	TEEN
June 27th	6:30-8:30 PM	
July 11th	6:30-8:30 PM	
July 25th	6:30-8:30 PM	
Sept. 19th	5:15 PM-7:15 PM	

### BROOKLYN HOME DAYS

FRIDAY	AUGUST 13TH
SATURDAY	AUGUST 14TH
SUNDAY	AUGUST 15TH

***The dates listed in the city's recycling calendar for Home Days in August are incorrect, please mark your calendars with the dates listed above.***

### SPECIAL THANKS...

Go out to Pat Scullin, Giant Eagle Store Manager at Biddulph Plaza, and his staff for providing the wonderful prize baskets and assistance at the City of Brooklyn's Egg Hunt which was held on April 3. This is Giant Eagle's fourth year as co-sponsors of the event. Also thanks to American Greetings who provided an extra treat for hunt participants.



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In This Issue...

Important news from the Mayor's Office and the Brooklyn School System!

## STORM WATER POLLUTION

### WHAT IS STORM WATER RUNOFF?

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like drive-ways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

### WHY IS STORM WATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into the storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

### THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

**Polluted storm water runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.**

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris—plastic bags, six pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or dis-able aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish.
- Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.